



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**THERMAL, ELECTRICAL AND MICROSTRUCTURAL CHARACTERIZATION OF
SnO₂-BASED CERAMIC COMPOSITES**

AIZA MASYATI BINTI MAS'UT

FS 2008 48



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By

AIZA MASYATI BINTI MAS'UT

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies Universiti Putra Malaysia
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

Sept 2008



DEDICATION

*To my beloved parents Mas'ut A.Samah and Rohayati Armia
for their boundless love and repeated encouragement ..*

*To my family members
for their wonderful support and concern...*

Abstract of theses presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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Chairman: Associate Professor Zaidan Abdul Wahab, PhD

Faculty: Science

In this work, the photoflash and two-probe technique were used to measure thermal diffusivity and electrical conductivity, respectively, on tin (IV) oxide-based gas sensor materials i.e. SnO₂/CuO and SnO₂/ZnO samples. All measurements were made at room temperature.

It was found that the thermal diffusivity value of pure SnO₂ was $1.45 \times 10^{-2} \text{ cm}^2\text{s}^{-1}$. The thermal diffusivity of SnO₂/CuO ceramic composites with addition of up to 30 mole% CuO increases to $7.50 \times 10^{-2} \text{ cm}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ but further additions of CuO decrease the thermal diffusivity value to $6.21 \times 10^{-2} \text{ cm}^2\text{s}^{-1}$. For SnO₂/ZnO ceramic composites, the thermal diffusivity is in the range of 1.01 to $2.62 \times 10^{-2} \text{ cm}^2\text{s}^{-1}$. Changes of the grain size or changes of the porosity volume have been suggested to be responsible for the variation in the thermal diffusivity behavior and this was supported by SEM micrographs.

The electrical resistivity of pure SnO_2 was found to be $2.11 \times 10^1 \Omega\text{cm}$. Both SnO_2/CuO and SnO_2/ZnO ceramic composites indicated that their electrical resistivity values were in the range of $4.067 \times 10^5 \Omega\text{cm}$ to $8.667 \times 10^6 \Omega\text{cm}$ and $2.739 \times 10^5 \Omega\text{cm}$ to $5.650 \times 10^6 \Omega\text{cm}$, respectively. Their electrical resistivity trends were actually decrease with increasing additions of either CuO or ZnO . The variation in the electrical resistivity of these samples has been explained based on the changes of free electron concentration.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains.

PENCIRIAN TERMA, ELEKTRIK DAN STRUKTUR MIKRO KOMPOSIT SERAMIK BERASASKAN SnO₂

Oleh

AIZA MASYATI BINTI MAS'UT

Sept 2008

Pengerusi: Profesor Madya Zaidan Abdul Wahab, PhD

Fakulti: Sains

Di dalam kajian ini, teknik sinaran lampu kilat dan kaedah penduga dua titik, masing-masing telah digunakan untuk mengukur kerosapan terma dan kekonduksian elektrik ke atas bahan-bahan sensor gas berasaskan SnO₂ iaitu sampel SnO₂/CuO dan SnO₂/ZnO. Semua pengukuran telah di buat pada suhu bilik.

Nilai kerosapan terma bagi sampel SnO₂ tulen ialah $1.45 \times 10^{-2} \text{ cm}^2\text{s}^{-1}$. Nilai kerosapan terma bagi sampel seramik komposit SnO₂/CuO dengan penambahan sehingga 30 mol CuO didapati meningkat kepada $7.50 \times 10^{-2} \text{ cm}^2\text{s}^{-1}$. Namun, penambahan CuO seterusnya menyebabkan pengurangan dalam nilai kerosapan terma kepada $6.21 \times 10^{-2} \text{ cm}^2\text{s}^{-1}$. Bagi sampel seramik komposit SnO₂/ZnO pula, nilai kerosapan termannya adalah dalam julat $1.01 \times 10^{-2} \text{ cm}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ hingga $2.62 \times 10^{-2} \text{ cm}^2\text{s}^{-1}$. Perubahan dalam saiz zarah atau isipadu liang telah dicadangkan sebagai punca kepada variasi dalam nilai kerosapan terma dan keputusan ini di sokong oleh grafmikro-grafmikro SEM.

Kerintangan elektrik bagi sampel SnO_2 tulen didapati adalah sebanyak $2.11 \times 10^1 \Omega\text{cm}$. Kerintangan elektrik bagi kedua-dua seramik komposit SnO_2/CuO dan SnO_2/ZnO pula masing-masing berada dalam julat $4.067 \times 10^5 \Omega\text{cm}$ hingga $8.667 \times 10^6 \Omega\text{cm}$ dan $2.739 \times 10^5 \Omega\text{cm}$ hingga $5.650 \times 10^6 \Omega\text{cm}$. Keputusan yang diperolehi menunjukkan kerintangan elektrik berkurang dengan penambahan CuO atau ZnO. Variasi dalam kerintangan elektrik sampel-sampel telah dijelaskan berdasarkan perubahan kepekatan elektron bebas.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to extend my deepest praise to Allah SWT who has given me the patience, strength, determination and courage to produce this thesis within the time frame despite all the challenges.

It would be a great pleasure to express my most sincere gratitude and highest thanks to my project supervisor, Associate Prof. Dr. Zaidan Abdul Wahab for his continuous supervision, invaluable suggestions, unlimited assistance and beneficial advice throughout this work. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to my co-supervisor, Prof. Dr. Wan Mahmood Mat Yunus for his advice and helpful discussion during this period of study. Special thanks to Associate Prof. Dr. Azmi Zakaria, Associate Prof. Dr. Zainal Abidin Talib and Associate Prof. Dr. Mansor Hashim, and to all the staffs in Physics Department for their help and co-operation given.

I am gratefully acknowledge my family especially to my beloved parents; Hj. Mas'ut Awang Samah and Hjh. Rohayati Armia for their unlimited financial support which enable me to take this work and for their repeated encouragement throughout this work. Thanks also to the award of the GRF Scholarship from the Universiti Putra Malaysia during my final semester. Last but not least, my sincere thanks to my family members, to all my friends, seniors and juniors who have directly or indirectly contributed towards the success of this project. Thank you for making my study of Master Science at UPM a memorable and enjoyable one. In truth, only Allah can reciprocate all the kindness. May Allah bless you.

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I certify that an Examination Committee has met on 11 September 2008 to conduct the final examination of Miss Aiza Masyati Binti Mas'ut for her Master of Science thesis entitled "Thermal, Electrical And Microstructural Characterization Of SnO₂-Based Ceramics" in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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DECLARATION

I do hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

Al_2O_3	Aluminium Oxide
CaO	Calcium Oxide
Ce	Carium
CH_4	Methane
$\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$	Etanol
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
Cu	Copper
CuCO_3	Copper(II) Carbonate
CuO	Copper Oxide
Cu_2O	Cuprous Oxide
CVD	Chemical Vapour Deposition
DMM	Digital Multimeter
eV	Electron volt
cm	Centimeter
mm	Millimeter
nm	Nanometer
μm	Micrometer
MHz	Megahertz
Pa	Pascal
E_a	Acceptor State
E_c	Conduction Band
E_d	Donor State
E_g	Energy Gap
E_v	Valence Band
EXP	Experiment
F	Fluorine
H_2	Hydrogen
H_2S	Hydrogen Sulfide
HNO_3	Nitric Acid

In	Indium
In ₂ O ₃	Indium Oxide
I-V	Current–voltage
ITO	Indium tin oxide
La	Lanthanum
LPG	Liquid Petroleum Gas
Mg	Magnesium
MgO	Magnesia
Mn	Manganese
MnO ₂	Manganese Oxide
Nb	Niobium
NH ₃	Ammonia
Ni-Cr	Nickel-Chromium
NMES	Nonmetallic Elemental Solid
NO	Nitrogen Monoxide
O ₂	Oxygen
P	Phosphorus
Pd	Palladium
Pt	Platinum
Sb	Antimony
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscope
SiC	Silicon Carbide
SiO	Silicon Oxide
Sn	Tin
SnO ₂	Tin (IV) Oxide
TiO ₂	Titanium Oxide
WO ₃	Tungsten Trioxide
wt%	Weight percentage
XRD	X-Ray Diffraction
Y	Yttrium
ZnO	Zinc Oxide
ZnSnO ₃	Metastannate
Zn ₂ SnO ₄	Spinnel Zinc Stannate

LIST OF SYMBOLS

α	Thermal diffusivity (cm^2s^{-1})
α_c	Corrected value of thermal diffusivity
τ	Pulse time
2θ	Scanning angle
T	Temperature
λ	Thermal conductivity ($\text{Wcm}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$)
Q	Total energy supplied per unit area
q	Rate of heat flow
C	Specific heat
C_p	Specific heat at constant pressure
K	Kelvin
l	Sample thickness (cm)
g	Finite thickness
m	Mass
V	Volume
ρ	Density
ρ_{th}	Theoretical density
x	Composition of ceramics
$t_{0.5}$	Half rise time
$t_{0.25}$	Time to reach 25% of maximum temperature
$t_{0.75}$	Time to reach 75% of maximum temperature
t_c	Characteristic rise time
K_R	Correction factor

l	Mean free path
l_{th}	Mean free path determined by thermal scattering
l_{im}	Mean free path determined by scattering by impurities
kV	KiloVolt
A	Surface area
\AA	Amstrong
d	Diameter
E	Electric field
I	Current through the object
J	Current density
R	Resistance
V	Voltage
ρ	Resistivity
σ	Electrical conductivity
μ	Carrier mobility
v	Average velocity of the phonons
L	Lorentz number
N	Number of unit cells in the crystal lattice of solid
ϕ_M	Metal work functions
ϕ_S	Semiconductor work functions
V_{bi}	Electrostatic potential (built-in field)

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Ceramic

The term “ceramic” comes from the Greek work *keramikos*, which means “burn stuff”, indicating that desirable properties of these materials are normally achieved through a high-temperature heat treatment process called firing. Ceramics can be defined as solid compounds that are formed by the application of heat and sometimes heat and pressure, comprising at least one metal and a nonmetallic elemental solid (NMES) or a nonmetal, a combination of at least two NMESs, or a combination of at least two NMESs and a nonmetal (Barsoum, 1997). Also note that ceramics are not limited to binary compounds: BaTiO_3 , $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_7$ and Ti_3SiC_2 are all perfectly respectable class members.

It follows that the oxides, nitrides, borides, carbides, and silicides of all metals and NMESs are ceramics; which needless to say, leads to a vast number of compounds (Barsoum, 1997). This number becomes even more daunting when it is appreciated that the silicates are also, by definition, ceramics. Because of the abundance of oxygen and silicon in nature, silicates are ubiquitous; rocks, dust, clay, mud, mountains, sand – in short, the vast majority of the earth’s crust are composed of silicate-based minerals. When it is also appreciated that even cement, bricks, and

concrete are essentially silicates, the inescapable conclusion is that we live in a ceramic world.

Ceramics are hard, wear-resistant, brittle, prone to thermal shock, refractory, electrically and thermally insulative, intrinsically transparent, nonmagnetic, chemically stable and oxidation-resistant (Barsoum, 1997). As with all generalizations, there will be exceptions; some ceramics are electrically and thermally quite conductive, while others are even superconducting. An entire industry is based on the fact that some ceramics are magnetic.

Traditional ceramics are quite common, from sanitary ware to fine chinaware and porcelains to glass products. Currently ceramics are being considered for uses that only two decades ago were inconceivable; applications ranging from ceramic engines to optical communications, electrooptic applications to laser materials and substrates in electronic circuits to electrodes in photoelectrochemical devices. In this project, the samples used are semiconductor ceramics.

1.2 SnO₂ Gas Sensor

Advances in technology, increased concern over domestic and industrial safety, finer control over manufacturing process steps and legislative actions governing harmful gaseous emissions from stationary and mobile sources are a few of the driving forces that have spurred increased development and implementation of gas sensors during the past three decades (Phani et al., 1999). Tin oxide, SnO₂ is most used as a material for gas sensor applications and it is the most important material for commercially